



**FY 2027 BUDGET TESTIMONY
AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS/PARKS AND RECREATION
Brian Shapiro, New York Director, Humane World for Animals**

January 27, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on issues pertaining to the care and treatment of our state's homeless, stray, and neglected companion animals. I'm presenting on behalf of Humane World for Animals, formerly called the Humane Society of the United States.

We thank the Legislature, Governor, and Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM) for supporting the Companion Animal Capital Fund (CACF) with a lifesaving \$48M since its inception in 2017 to help our state's animal shelters maintain and improve facilities. These investments strengthen our shelters and make for better, safer communities.

We join other leading state-based animal protection organizations in respectfully requesting continued CACF support from the Legislature for FY27 in the form of a \$5M allocation to match the \$5M contribution made by Governor Hochul in her Executive Budget.

Humane World for Animals also supports establishing an "Animal Crimes Fund," as detailed by the New York State Animal Protection Federation (NYSAPF), with a \$2.5M allocation. When animal cruelty cases are prosecuted, the victims (companion animals) can be held as live evidence throughout the proceedings, which may last for months or even years. While the existing security bond process provides some relief for shelters, it is often complicated and inadequate and fails to meet needs.

Additionally, and also on public safety, it's worth noting that last year it seems DAM enacted a policy change and no longer requires and maintains certificates of veterinary inspection for wild animals imported into New York. As a result, no state agency appears to monitor the import of dangerous wild animals such as big cats, bears, or primates into New York. If this was due to budgetary constraints, we respectfully urge immediate review and renewed funding in order to prevent serious issues moving forward.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share this information today and for your dedication and commitment to the people and companion animals of New York State.

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